GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:274
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2002
MINING ACTIVITIES AROUND RAILWAY TRACKS
SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether mining activities are undertaken around railway tracks on certain railway routes of eastern region;

(b) if so, whether there is always a danger of spontaneous ignition of the underground seams, which are left unmined;

(c) whether the Ministry of Coal has suggested to his Ministry to resolve safety related issues; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not meeting safety measures in the railways?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 274 BY SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 1.8.2002 REGARDING MINING ACTIVITIES AROUND RAILWAY TRACKS.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, dangerous situation may occur if mining operations are not done properly.

(c) & (d) Ministry of Coal had requested for constitution of a committee by Ministry of Railways with participation from Ministry of Coal and Mines, local Administration and CoalMines Officials. Accordingly, a committee was constituted in June, 2001.Meanwhile the then Minister for Coal and Mines, Government of India, had advised inOctober, 2001 that Railways need not wait for the recommendations of the Committee referred herein and in view of urgency of the situation, close the line without any further loss of time, to eliminate danger to life and property. The committee has since submitted their report. In order to ensure safety, the committee`s recommendation to suspend passenger traffic on Dhanbad-Patherdih line, has been accepted and Railway Board have issued instructions to Eastern Railway for its implementation.